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Book Review

By
William Wagner, D.V.M., Ph.D.*

VETERINARY ENDOCRINOLOGY and REPRODUCTION

By
L. E. McDonald

Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1969; \$19.50

Dr. McDonald is to be commended for his efforts in putting together a textbook which is aimed at the veterinary student and the practitioner as well. With the proliferation of knowledge and research data in the area of endocrinology and reproductive physiology in recent years, it is difficult to strike a good balance between basic information and clinical application for the veterinary student. This book represents a good attempt in this direction.

The book is organized into 21 chapters. The first seven chapters are devoted to classical endocrinology with the remaining portion of the book devoted to reproductive physiology itself. Chapters are devoted to each of the four major domestic species (cow, pig, sheep, horse) as well as the cat and dog in which the reproductive physiology of each species is discussed in detail.

Several chapters were authored by outside contributors. The three chapters on Biology of Sex, Male Reproduction and Artificial Insemination were written by L. C. Faulkner. G. K. Benson contributed the chapter on Lactation and L. E. Mount provided the chapter on Physiology of the Newborn Animal.

The problem with all textbooks is the lack of current references. This one is no exception. The discussions on corpus luteum control in the cow, parturition mechanisms and estrus synchronization are some areas that seem particularly lacking. Although mention is made of the danger of premature parturition following use of corticoids in the cow, no reference is made to the extensive work on the fetal adrenal in the discussion of parturition.

Other discrepancies could be cited such as the discussion on persistent corpora lutea which does not rest on very solid evidence. The discussion on the effect of uterine infection on ovarian function is also incomplete.

The book also needs to be proofread more carefully since some references are incomplete or incorrect. The index could be more complete. If one wishes to read a discussion on the clitoris, it can only be found indexed under the heading of external genitalia.

However, the deficiencies listed above do not prevent this reviewer from recommending the book for veterinary students. The lack of recent references (1968 and 1969) can be easily overcome by the teacher in a physiology or obstetrics class. The wide usage of drawings and structural formulas of hormones throughout the text make it easily understandable. This reviewer hopes that the good beginning represented by this book will be improved on as future editions appear.

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